

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Region I - EPA New England

### **I. Facility Information**

- A. Facility Name:* City of Beverly DPW Yard  
*B. Facility Location:* 148 Park Street  
Beverly, MA 01915  
*C. Facility Contact:* Michael Collins, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Services and Engineering  
*D. Contact Mailing Address:* Same as above

### **II. Background Information**

- A. Date of inspection:* October 14, 2011  
*B. Weather Conditions:* Overcast, damp, upper 60s  
*C. US EPA Representative(s):* George W. Harding, P.E.  
Andrew Spejewski  
*D. Local Representative(s):* Michael Collins, P.E.

### **III Purpose of Inspection**

The inspection was to investigate a complaint from Mr. James Zarella regarding runoff from a stockpile of waste material stored in the DPW yard to a storm drain on Creek Street. Mr. Zarella owns and operates Big Jim's Auto Body, located on Creek Street adjacent to the DPW yard.

### **IV Facility Description**

The DPW Yard is located at 148 Park Street, Beverly MA. The property extends from Park Street to the MBTA rail lines about 450 feet to the west. Along the rail line it extends about 450 feet to the south, behind Big Jim's Auto Body and past Creek Street. Operations on the site include a garage for DPW vehicles, vehicle maintenance garage, salt storage shed, and vehicle fueling facility. In the southwest corner of the property is a storage area where, among other things, street sweepings and catch basin cleanings (the "stockpile") are stored for disposal. The property slopes steeply from Park Street toward the rail line, flattening out into a low lying area near the tracks. This low lying area extends into Mr. Zarella's property.

### **V. Inspection**

The EPA inspectors arrived at the facility at about 9:15 AM. We initially observed the DPW Yard from Creek Street. The end of the stockpile extended almost to an entrance gate at the end of Creek Street. The elevation of the DPW Yard is above the end of the street. We observed a trickle of liquid flowing toward a catch basin on Creek Street, and solids deposited on the pavement between the property line and the catch basin. There was a large accumulation of solids in the catch basin. There was also quite a bit of trash around the catch basin, but it was not clear whether it came from the stockpile or from runoff from Creek Street.



While we were on Creek Street, Mr. Zarella came out to speak with us. He gave us a tour of an area of his property adjacent to the DPW Yard where he stored vehicles and tow trucks. This area, and low-lying areas in the DPW Yard, had been flooded earlier in the month during an intense rain storm. Many of the vehicles in Mr. Zarella's storage area were damaged by the flood waters. He suggested that solids flowing from the stockpile into the catch basin on Creek Street may have partially clogged the storm drain and contributed to the flooding. He also showed us a number of digital photos of materials being dumped at the stockpile, and liquids running off onto Creek Street. He later e-mailed us copies of the photos. He claimed that in addition to street sweepings and catch basin cleanings material vacuumed from sanitary sewers was dumped in the stockpile.

We proceeded to the entrance to the DPW Yard at 148 Park Street, where we were met by Mr. Michael Collins, P.E., the Commissioner of Public Services and Engineering for the City of Beverly. We questioned him about the stockpile of street sweepings and catch basin cleanings. He told us that the material was approved for use as a landfill daily cover. The material was normally stockpiled at the DPW Yard for transport to a disposal site. Beverly had been bringing it to an ash landfill in Haverhill, but in early 2011 the landfill stopped accepting it. This had resulted in a much larger than usual quantity of material being stockpiled until Beverly could find another disposal option. Mr. Collins said 2-3 truckloads of street sweepings per day were brought to the DPW yard (the City aims to do 3 citywide street sweepings a year as part of its stormwater best management practices). He also said that catch basin cleaning had been suspended to reduce the amount of waste material being stored. We asked whether waste from sanitary sewers was being dumped in the stockpile. He said that the vacuum trucks were used for a number of things other than sewer cleaning (for example, removing loose material from the excavation when repairing water main breaks). Material from sanitary sewer cleaning is discharged into the wet well of a sewage pump station. Some of the other materials from other uses are dumped in the stockpile.

When we asked about the flooding incident, Mr. Collins said that a 42" gravity storm drain ran through low-lying areas of the DPW Yard and Mr. Zarella's property. These areas are the lowest point along the drain. Because of the low elevation of the area, this storm drain is subject to tidal influence. During the flooding event, extremely heavy rains caused high flows to occur during extremely high tide conditions. The capacity of the storm drain was exceeded, and excess flows backed up at the low point. Mr. Collins noted that the City's central motor pool and vehicle maintenance facility are located at the DPW Yard, and that the flooding damaged many city vehicles and the maintenance garage. When asked about the storm drain on Creek Street, he said that it was on a lateral line, not on the main storm drain, so the accumulation of solids in the catch basin would not affect flow in the main line.

We went on site and examined the stockpile. It was located on a paved area at the southwest corner of the DPW Yard. The paved area was at a higher elevation than the end of Creek Street. The area closest to the end of the street sloped off of the DPW Yard. It had a trapezoidal shape and was approximately 80-100' long, 10' high, and about 20' wide at the base. The material was primarily sand, grit, and leaves, with quite a bit of trash visible in the mix. It was very damp, although only trace amounts of liquid were seeping from the bottom of the pile at the time

of the inspection.

We advised Mr. Collins that the runoff from the stockpile to the storm drain on Creek Street was probably not covered under the City's MS4 permit and therefore a violation of the Clean Water Act. We suggested installing a berm to prevent runoff from the stockpile from leaving the property while the City was searching for a disposal option. When Mr. Collins asked whether the agency would be fining the City, we told him that decisions regarding enforcement actions were made at a higher level.

